

## Message Text

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63

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-04

OES-06 L-03 /052 W

----- 049222

R 041240Z MAY 76

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0176

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALEXANDRIA 0291

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, EG

SUBJECT: ALEXSHIP/MARTRANS DISPUTE

REF: STATE 106404 (NOTAL)

1. OFFICE OF MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ALEXANDRIA SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION COMPANY SEEMS CERTAIN THAT "SUSPENSION" OF LOWER COURT DECISION IN MARTRANS DISPUTE DOES RPT DOES MEAN THAT ALEXSHIP CANNOT ACT AS AGENT FOR AMERICAN EXPORT LINES OR ANY OTHER SHIPPING. HOWEVER, MAHMOUD ISMAIL HIMSELF IS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND OFFICE DID NOT WANT MAKE DEFINITIVE ANSWER PENDING HIS RETURN IN FEW DAYS.

2. MEANWHILE LOCAL LAWYER CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH SHIPPING INDUSTRY INFORMED CONGEN THAT CO-FOUNDER OF ALEXSHIP, ENGINEER ABDEL AZIZ HADR, RESIGNED LAST WEEK, ALLEGEDLY FED UP WITH ISMAIL'S SHARP AND AT TIMES DISHONEST BUSINESS METHODS AND FEARING IMMINENT COLLAPSE OF ISMAIL'S SHAKILY FINANCED ENTERPRISE.

3. SOURCE, WHO SERVES FINNISH AND OTHER SCANDINAVIAN SHIPPING INTERESTS, IS ADMITTEDLY IN ADVERSARY POSITION TO ISMAIL AND  
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IS A LEADING DETRACTOR OF THE MAN AND HIS METHODS. HE CLAIMED

THAT WHILE IN FINLAND LAST SUMMER, EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR THERE HIMSELF TOLD SOURCE OF "FUNNY BUSINESS" IN ISMAIL'S ACTIVITIES, SPECIFICALLY IN PURCHASE OF SHIP THERE. FYI - SHIP MAY BE PASSENGER/CAR FERRY FORMERLY NAMED PRINSESSE MARGRETHE, NOW NAMED ALANOUD - END FYI.

4. CONGEN WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY HELSINKI MIGHT BE ABLE DEVELOP ON ALEXSHIP REPUTATION IN FINNISH SHIPPING CIRCLES, IF READILY AVAILABLE. FOR EMBASSY INFO, ALEXSHIP IS FIRST PRIVATE VENTURE SINCE NASSER'S NATIONALIZATION OF SHIPPING INDUSTRY SOME TWENTY YEARS AGO. SEEKING TO OPERATE UNDER PRESIDENT SADAT'S "OPEN ECONOMIC DOOR POLICY," COMPANY AND FOUNDER HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT LEGAL STRUGGLE WITH GOVERNMENT SHIPPING AGENCY AND MARITIME MINISTRY EVER SINCE FOUNDING YEAR AND ONE HALF BACK.  
CHASE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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